

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 08602 100451Z

15

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

----- 067025

R 092138Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4232

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 8602

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP EAGR MX

SUBJECT: TOPICS FOR PRESIDENTIAL MEETING: AGRICULTURE

THE FOLLOWING TOPICS ARE SUGGESTED AS POSSIBLE MATTERS FOR
PRESIDENTIAL DISCUSSION IN THE AGRICULTURAL AREA.

1. POSSIBLE EXPORT RESTRICTIONS ON U.S. WHEAT, CORN, GRAIN
SORGHUM, SOYBEANS AND SOYBEAN MEAL WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT MEXICO
AND COULD BE BROUGHT UP BY PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA. BACKGROUND: IN
1973-74 (JULY- JUNE) MEXICO IMPORTED 1.5 MILLION M.T. OF CORN,
700,000 MT OF WHEAT, THE EQUIVALENT OF 1 MILLION M.T. OF SOYBENAS
IN THE FORM OF OILSEEDS, OIL AND MEAL. (EARLY FROST IN SEPT
DESTROYED ABOUT 1 MILLION M.T. OF CORN IN MEXICO.) IT NOW
APPEARS THAT 1974-75 WILL BE ROUGHLY A REPEAT OF LAST YEAR
REGARDING MEXICO'S IMPORT NEEDS.
PARTLY BECAUSE OF CANCELLATION CONTRACTS TO USSR, THERE IS
CONSIDERABLE FEAR IN MEXICO THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL INVOKE
ACROSS THE BOARD EXPORT LIMITATIONS ON CORN, WHEAT, AND
OILSEEDS AND PRODUCTS. SHOULD THIS HAPPEN MEXICO WOULD BE IN A
DIFFICULT POSITION IN OBTAINING MUCH NEEDED SUPPLIES OF THESE
COMMODITIES DURING THE CURRENT YEAR (U.S. FY-75). MEXICO
HAS OUTSTANDING CONTRACTS FOR U.S. WHEAT TOTALLING 400,000 M.T.,
AND NEEDS ANOTHER 100-150,000 M.T. DURING THE NEXT 6 MONTHS.
CORN IMPORT REQUIREMENTS DURING FY 1975 ARE ESTIMATED AT
1.3 MILLION M.T., OF WHICH ONLY 400,000 M.T. HAVE BEEN BOUGHT.
GRAIN SORGHUM IMPORT NEEDS FOR FY-75 ARE ESTIMATED AT 500,000
M.T., OF WHICH ONLY 160,000 M.T. (U.S. ORIGIN) HAVE BEEN BOUGHT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 08602 100451Z

AND NOT YET DELIVERED. OILSEED AND PRODUCT IMPORT NEEDS IN FY-74

ARE ESTIMATED AT THE EQUIVALENT OF 700,000 M.T. OF SOYBEANS
PRACTICALLY ALL OF WHICH REMAIN TO BE PURCHASED.

2. SINCE MEXICO EXPORTS LARGE QUANTITIES OF TOMATOES TO THE
U.S. CHANGES IN U.S. IMPORT REGULATIONS ARE OF INTEREST AND
COULD POSSIBLY BE BROUGHT UP BY THE MEXICAN PRESIDENT. IT IS NOT
CONSIDERED LIKELY. BACKGROUND: THE USDA ANNOUNCED SEPT 25
ITS INTENT TO CHANGE THE QUALITY RESTRICTIONS TO BECOME EFFECTIVE
OCT 28, 1974, ON IMPORTED FRESH TOMATOES. THE ONLY CHANGES
ARE THAT THE MINIMUM GRADE ALLOWED WILL BE U.S. #3 AND THE
MINIMUM DIAMETER MUST BE MORE THAN 2-1/8 INCHES. THIS MAKES
THE SAME REGULATIONS APPLICABLE FOR IMPORTED TOMATOES THAT APPLY
TO DOMESTICALLY MARKETING TOMATOES UNDER THE FEDERAL MARKETING ORDER
FOR TOMATOES GROWN IN FLORIDA. FEDERAL LAW REQUIRES THAT THE
SAME REQUIREMENTS APPLY TO IMPORTED TOMATOES. THIS IS NOT SEEN
AS CAUSING ANY UNNECESSARY COMPLIANCE PROBLEMS FOR MEXICO.
MEXICO EXPORTS ROUGHLY 100 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF TOMATOES
TO THE U.S. EACH YEAR WHICH IS SLIGHTLY MORE THAN HALF OF THE U.S.
CONSUMPTION OF TOMATOES DURING THE WINTER MONTHS.

3. FOLLOWING ARE A NUMBER OF JOINT U.S./MEXICAN PROGRAMS WHICH
MIGHT BE MENTIONED BY EITHER PRESIDENT AS EXAMPLES OF EXCELLENT
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN CONTROLLING ANIMAL AND
PLANT DISEASES AND PESTS:

A. SCREWORM PROGRAM. THIS IS A FIVE-YEAR \$40 MILLION COOPERATIVE
PROGRAM FOR THE ELIMINATION OF THIS PEST FROM MOST OF MEXICO.
THE U.S. IS CONTRIBUTING 80 PERCENT OF PROGRAM COSTS AND
MEXICO 20 PERCENT. PROGRAM IS CURRENTLY IN INITIAL STAGES
AND IS EXPECTED TO BE IN FULL SWING BY MID-1975. DURING THE
PROGRAM PEAK THERE WILL BE 68 U.S. EMPLOYEES, 35 LOCALS AND
950 JOINT COMMISSION EMPLOYEES. MOST OF THE LATTER WILL BE
LOCATED IN TUXTLA GUTIERREZ WHERE STERILE FLIES WILL BE
PRODUCED IN A PLANT CURRENTLY BEING CONSTRUCTED. BY ELIMINATING
THIS PEST FROM MEXICO, RANCHERS IN THE U.S. WILL BE COMPLETELY
PROTECTED.

B. PLANT PROTECTION PROGRAM. INVOLVES COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS FOR THE
CONTROL AND ERADICATION OF SERIOUS PLANT PESTS OF ECONOMIC
SIGNIFICANCE TO U.S. AND MEXICAN FARMERS. PROGRAM IS ALSO AIMED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEXICO 08602 100451Z

AT PREVENTING THE KHAPRA BEETLE FROM ENTERING MEXICO WHICH COULD
EVENTUALLY ENTER U.S. PROGRAM IS HEADQUARTERED AT MONTERREY AND
EMPLOYS 11 AMERICANS AND 120 LOCALS.

C. AFTOSA COMMISSION. THIS IS A CONTINUATION OF THE COOPERATIVE
PROGRAM LAUNCHED IN 1947 TO ERADICATE THE HOOF-AND-MOUTH OUTBREAK
IN MEXICO. PURPOSE OF THE CURRENT PROGRAM IS TO PREVENT RE-INTRO-
DUCTION OF THIS DREADED DISEASE INTO MEXICO OR IN THE EVENT AN

OUTBREAK SHOULD OCCUR TO HAVE AN ORGANIZATION ON THE GROUND READY TO MOVE RAPIDLY TO CONTROL AND ERADICATE THE OUTBREAK. STAFF CONSISTS OF 4 AMERICANS, 1 LOCAL AND 8 JOINT COMMISSION LOCAL EMPLOYEES.

D. MEAT INSPECTION. A FULL TIME USDA MEAT INSPECTOR IS ATTACHED TO AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE STAFF TO CARRY OUT MEAT INSPECTION PROGRAMS FROM MEXICO. THIS INVOLVES PERIODIC VISITS TO THE 23 MEAT PACKING PLANTS EXPORTING BEEF TO THE U.S. TO ASSURE THAT THE MEXICAN MEAT INSPECTION SYSTEM AND PLANT FACILITIES MEET U.S. SANITARY AND WHOLESOMENESS STANDARDS.

JOVA

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WHEAT, AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS, EXPORT CONTROLS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MEXICO08602
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740287-1044
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741060/aaaabzgc.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2003 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TOPICS FOR PRESIDENTIAL MEETING: AGRICULTURE THE FOLLOWING TOPICS ARE SUGGESTED AS POSSIBLE MATTERS FOR
TAGS: OVIP, EAGR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005